GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:757
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CONTRIBUTION OF FOREST SECTOR TO GDP
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of the forest sector to GDP during the last two years;

(b) whether Government proposes to bring one third geographic area of the country under forest-cover as per the National Forest Policy;

(c) if so, the details of the total area that has been brought under the forest-cover as of now; and

(d) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve objectives of sustainable forest management?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) The contribution of the forestry sector to GDP in the last two years is as below:

S. No.	Sector Years	Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost during the year at current prices (Rs. In crores) 2005-06	2006-07
1.	Forestry and Logging	25839 (0.8)	26855 (0.7)
2.	Total GDP in the Indian Economy	3275670	3790063

Figures in bracket are percentage share of forestry and logging sector out of the total GDP.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Change in forest cover in State / UTs during the last two assessments is as below:

Years	(In Sq. km) 2003	2005
Total area under forest cover in square kilometers in States / UTs between the 2003 and 2005 Assessments carried out by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun	677,816	677,088

There is a net decline of 728 sq. km in total forest cover between the Assessment carried out between the years 2003 and 2005.

(d) The following steps are being taken to achieve the objectives of Sustainable Forest Management(SFM) by the Government:-

An SFM Cell has been set up in the Ministry to act as a Nodal Agency in achievement of SFM objectives at the national level.

Similar SFM Cells are being set up in all forest department in each State / UTs.

Criteria and Indicators have been developed for Sustainable Forest Management. These will standardize the assessment and monitoring of the health of forests even at the level of the local Forest Management Unit (FMU). It is proposed to incorporate these Criteria and Indicators in the working plan of each FMU. As Working Plans are the basic management plans of the forest department, incorporation of Criteria and Indicators would institutionalize the entire process and help in the achievement of SFM Objectives and implementation through out the country.